



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND TOURISM

Economics, Statistics & Fiscal Analysis Division
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ECONOMIC TRENDS

THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

HISTORICAL STATISTICAL REVIEW - A PREVIEW

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic Trends describes a new publication being produced by the Economics, Statistics and Fiscal Analysis Division called the Prince Edward Island Historical Statistical Review. Its purpose is to provide a reference document on statistics across a wide range of subject matter for Prince Edward Island over long time series. This Trends paper introduces the new document and provides a graphic portrayal of some of the material contained therein. It contains eighty nine tables covering Prince Edward Island statistics for most of the twentieth century, and in the case of basic population numbers it extends back to the early 18th century.

The rationale for the publication stemmed from a concern that present statistical publications of the Division lacked a long term historical reference point. The Quarterly Reviews compare recent monthly information with the previous year, the Annual Statistical Review provides statistics over the past six to eight years. Questions related to the longer term fiscal, social and economic circumstances of the Province are analyzed in Economic Trends, but there is no readily available source of information for statistics themselves over the longer haul. It is this gap that the Historical Statistical Review attempts to fill.

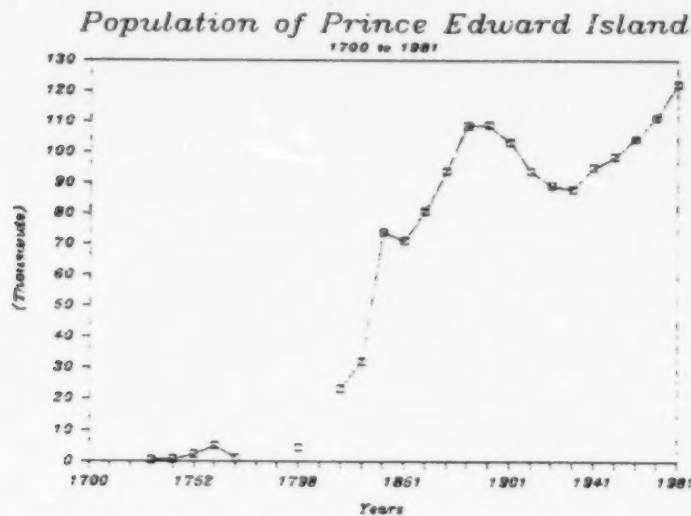
This issue of Economic Trends displays a sample of the material in the Review in graphic form. The Review itself consists only of statistical tables.

2. Population Data

The longest statistical series in the Review consists of the population count for Prince Edward Island, which was traced back to the early Eighteenth Century. In 1728 the first Census was conducted by M. de Pensens the French Governor,

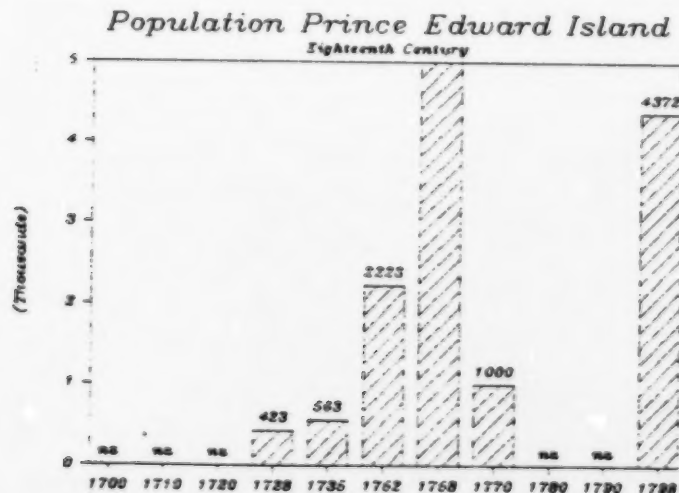
and he recorded 298 settlers and 125 itinerant fishermen on Ile St. Jean that year. Diagram 1 identifies population growth from that point to 1981. The peak of 5,000 in 1758 is an estimate

Diagram 1



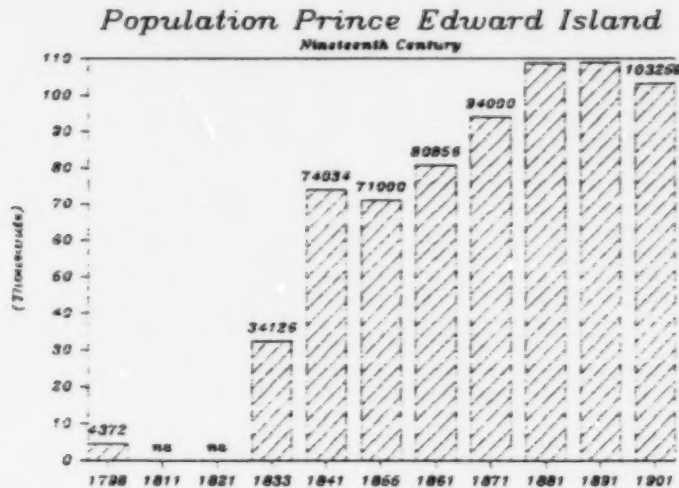
and the decline that followed is the result of the deportation of Acadians by the British late that year. The first Census of the Island by the British was in 1768 and it showed only 68 British and 203 French on the Island. By 1798 there were 4,372 (Diagram 2). The pace of growth accelerated with British

Diagram 2



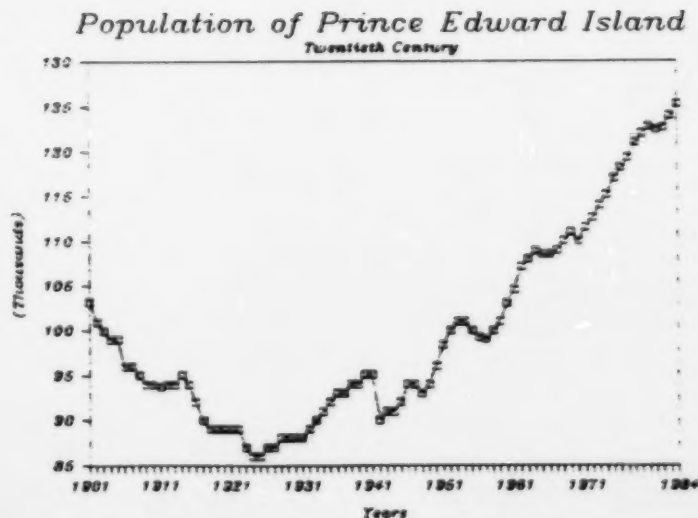
immigration during the 19th Century, the population peaking at 109,000 shortly after Confederation, 1881-1891. (Diagram 3). A long period of decline followed to a low of 88,000 in

Diagram 3



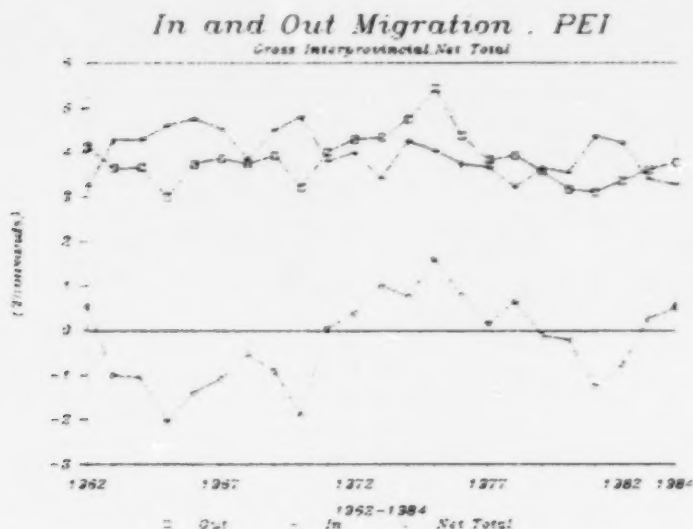
the early 1920's. (Diagram 4) Not until 1966 was the peak of the 19th Century regained, as continuing population loss

Diagram 4



occurred as a result of significant net outmigration. The pattern of migration since 1962 can be seen in Diagram 5, and this shows the switch to net immigration that occurred in

Diagram 5



comparatively recent times, as well as the size of the absolute flows of people between Prince Edward Island and the other Provinces.

In 1901, the rural population of Prince Edward Island represented 85.5 per cent of the total population. In 1931, this was 76.8 per cent, of which the farm population was 63 per cent, the remainder consisting of the non-farm rural population. Diagrams 6 to 10 display the major changes in

Diagram 6

Population of Prince Edward Island
1901



Diagram 7

Population of Prince Edward Island
1931

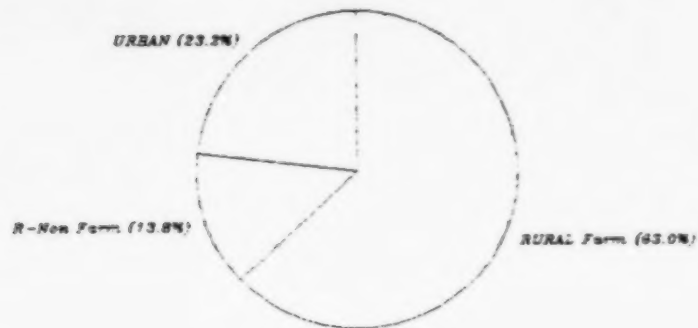


Diagram 8

Population Of Prince Edward Island
1951

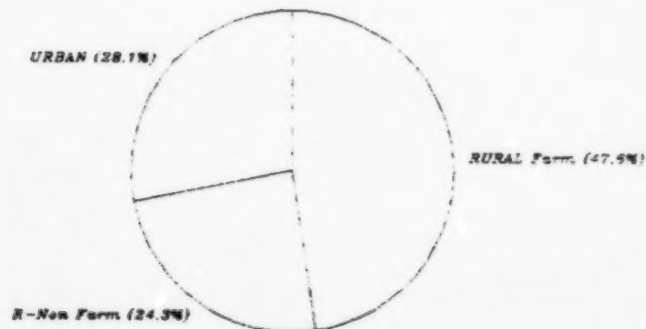


Diagram 9

Population of Prince Edward Island
1971

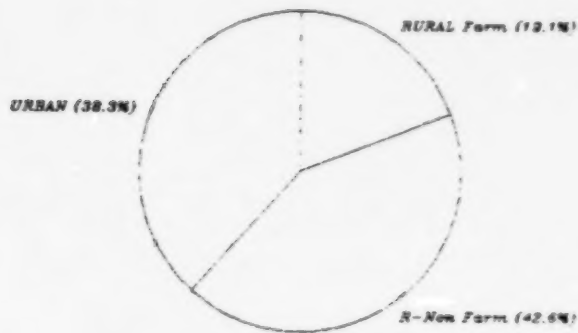
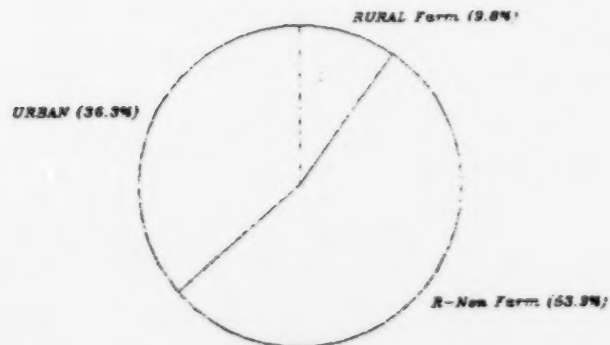


Diagram 10

Population of Prince Edward Island
1981



composition of the population during the past 50 years, showing the growing importance of the rural non-farm population, which reached 53.9 per cent of the total in 1981, as well as the decline in the farm population. The most dramatic shift appeared to occur between 1951 and 1971.

Diagrams 11 and 12 identify the age composition of the

Diagram 11

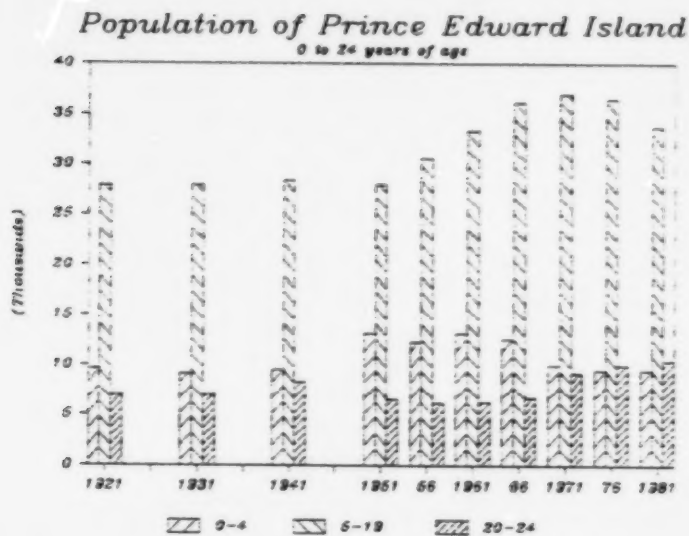
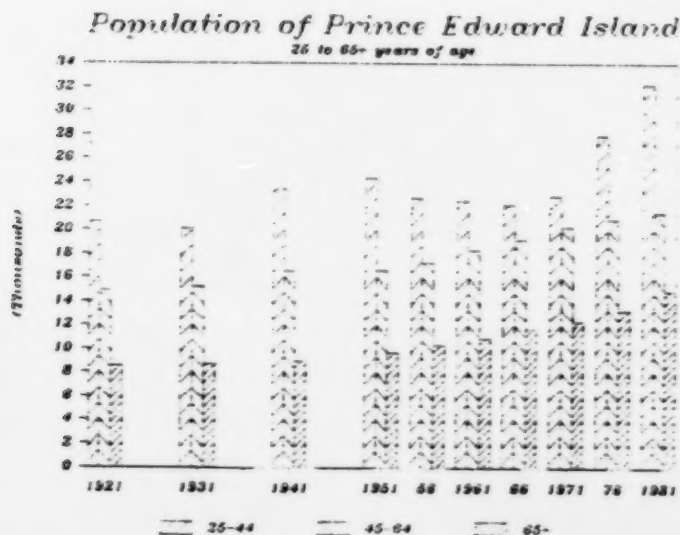
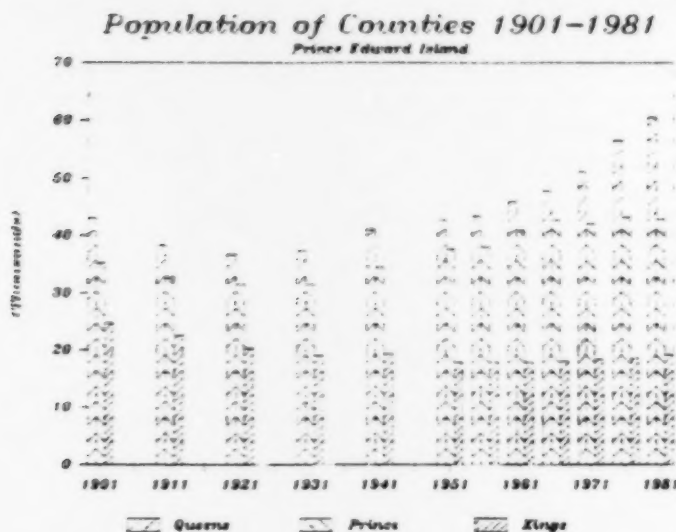


Diagram 12



Prince Edward Island population 1921-1981, and again there have been significant changes over time. Diagram 13 shows the population of the Island's three Counties, 1901-1981.

Diagram 13



In all cases one can discern major trends over these long time periods.

3. Miscellaneous Statistics

It would be impossible to comment fully on all the statistical information in the Review. The following Diagrams are displayed to provide a general understanding of the data and are hopefully self explanatory and interesting to observe in themselves.

Diagram 14



Diagram 15

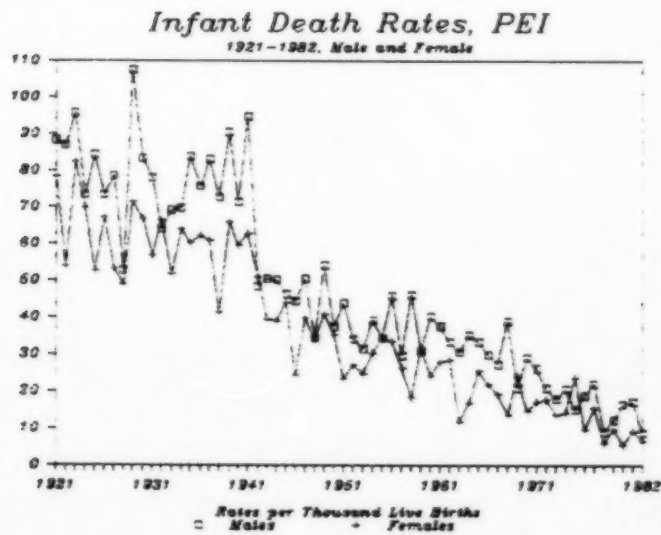


Diagram 16

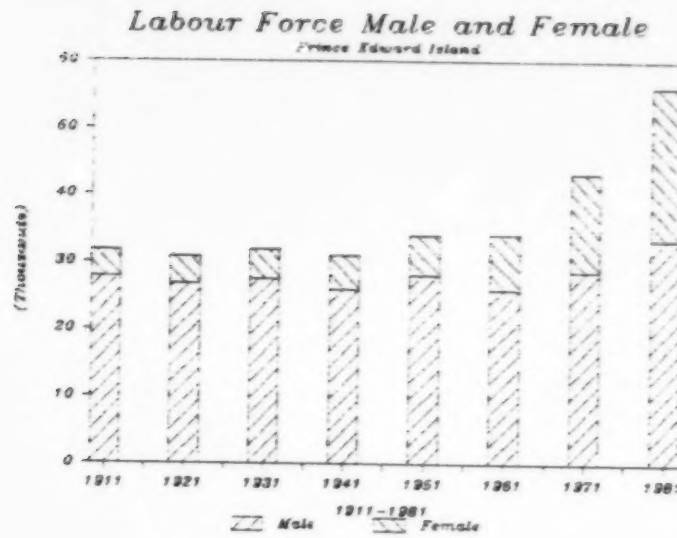


Diagram 17



Diagram 18



Diagram 19

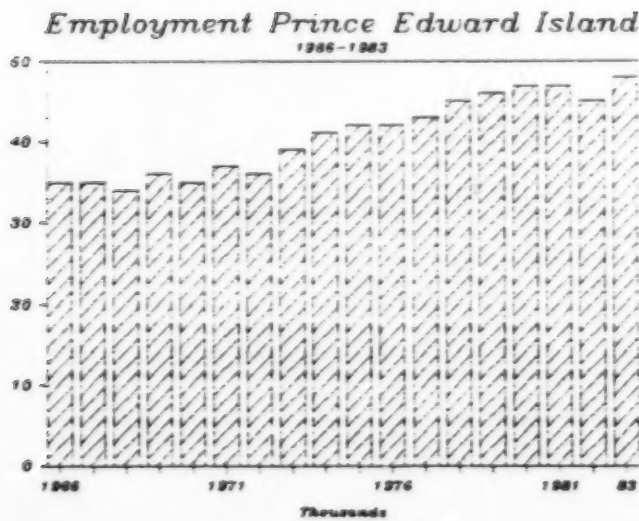


Diagram 20

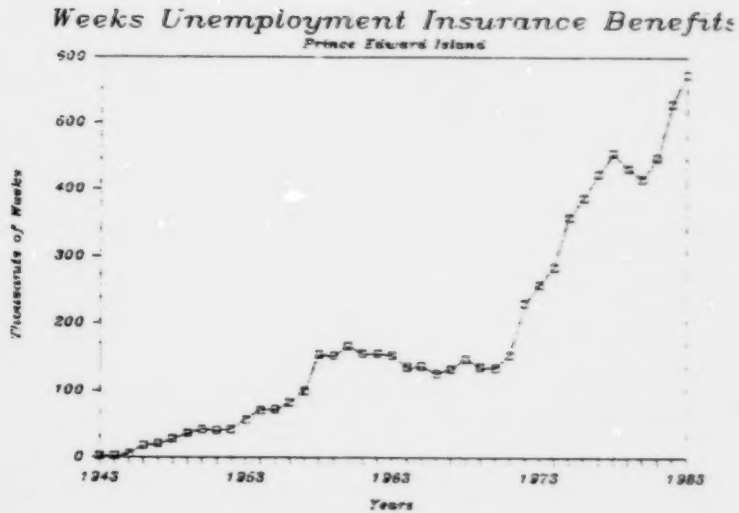


Diagram 21

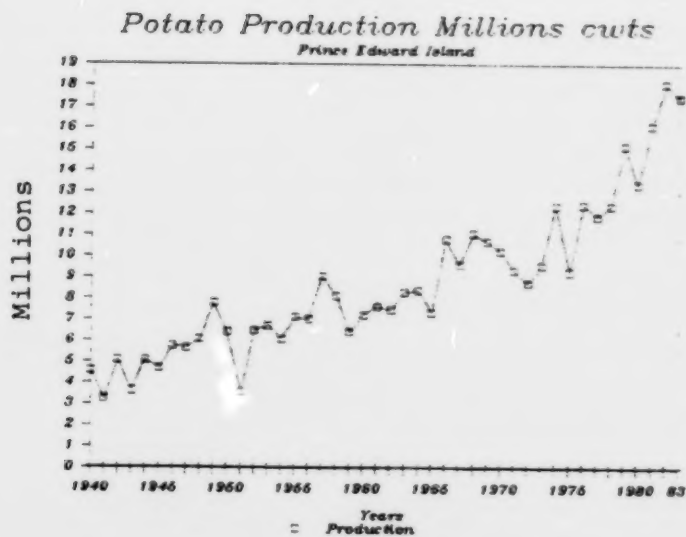


Diagram 22

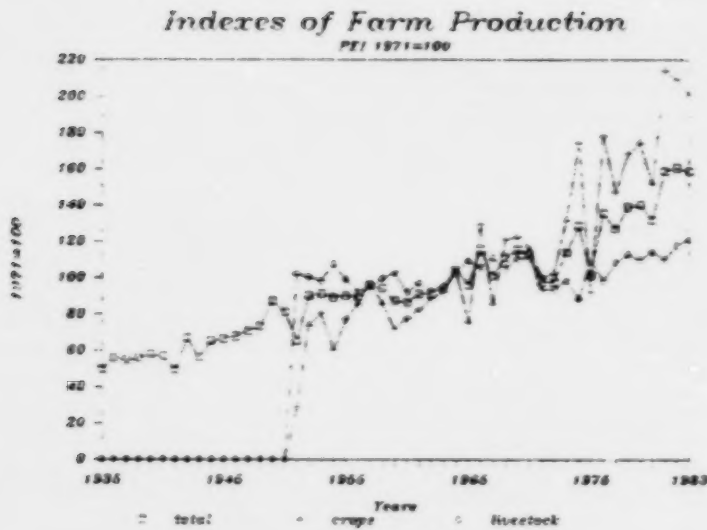


Diagram 23

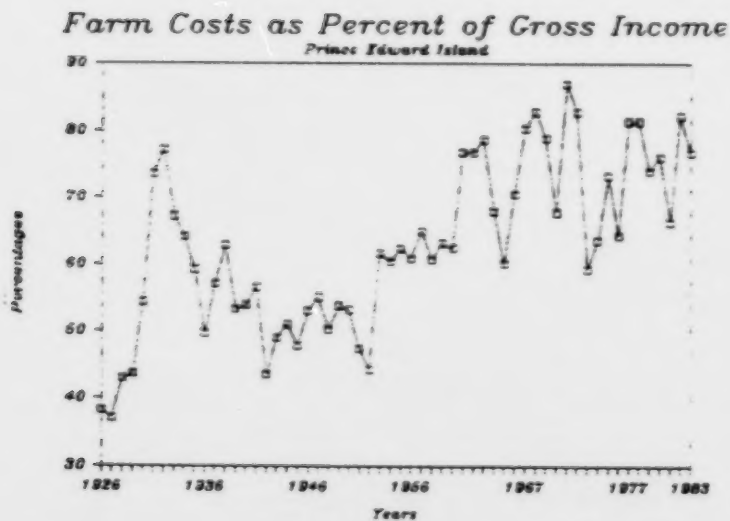


Diagram 24

Net Income from Farming

Prince Edward Island

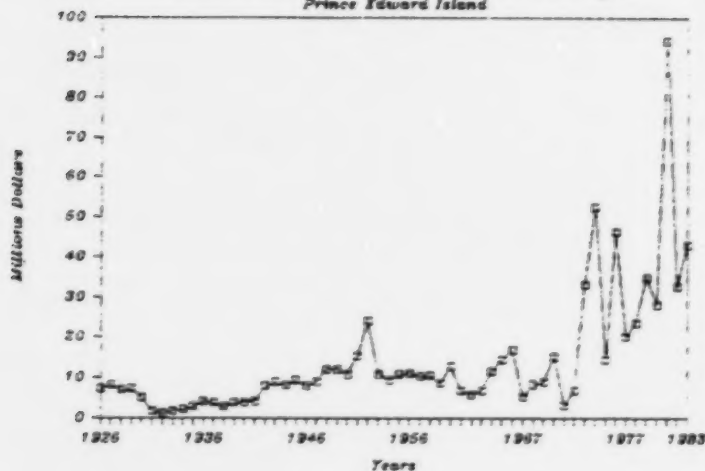


Diagram 25

Fish Landings Lbs

Prince Edward Island

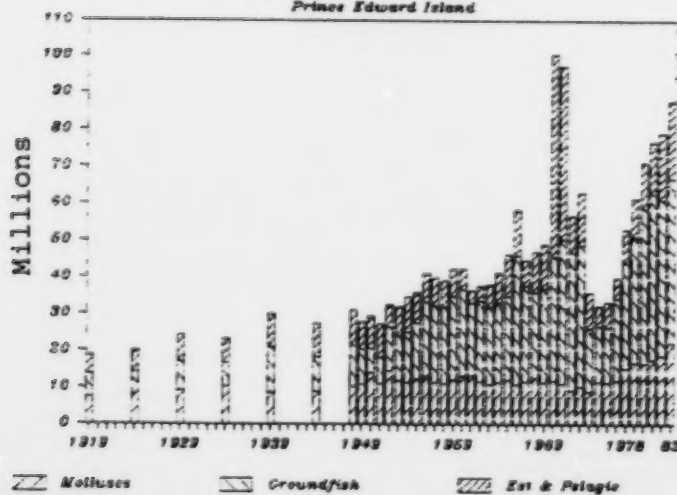


Diagram 26

Tourist Parties PEI

Air & Auto

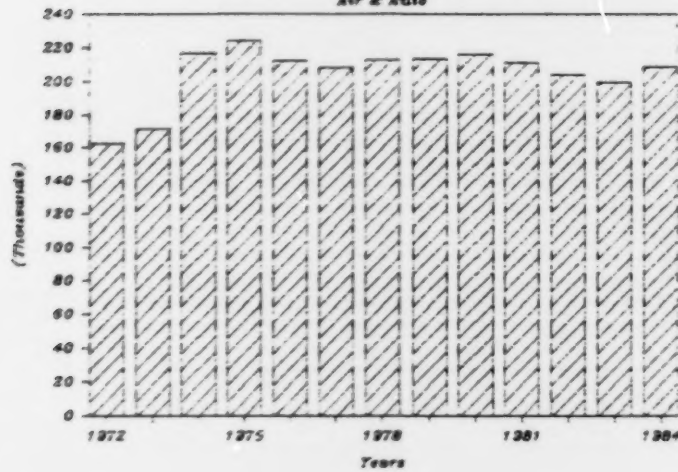


Diagram 27

Housing Starts

Prince Edward Island

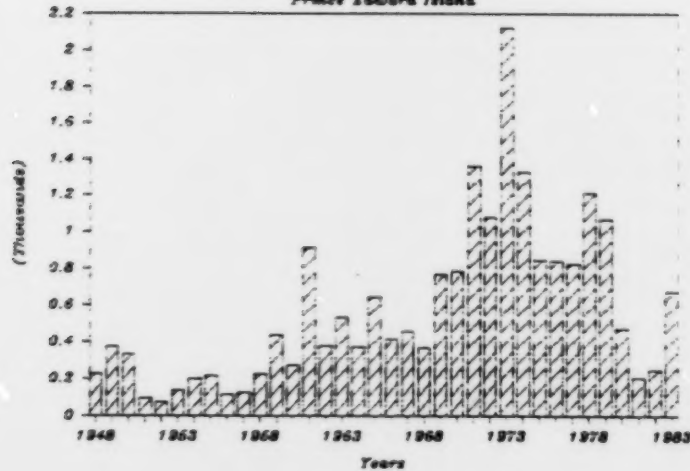


Diagram 28

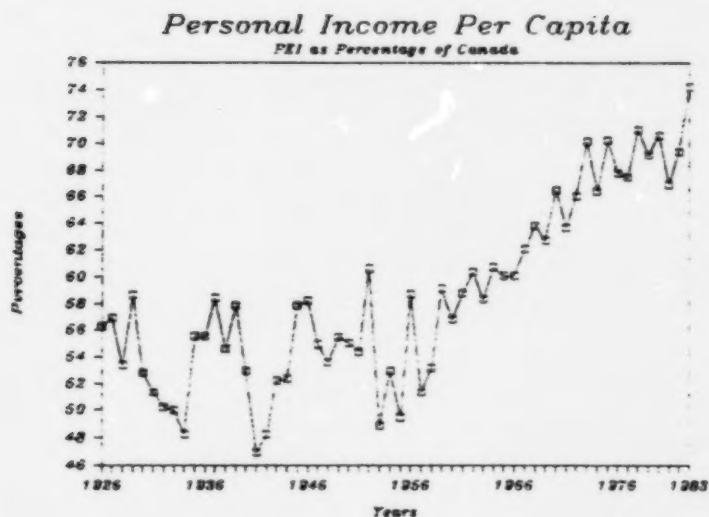


Diagram 29

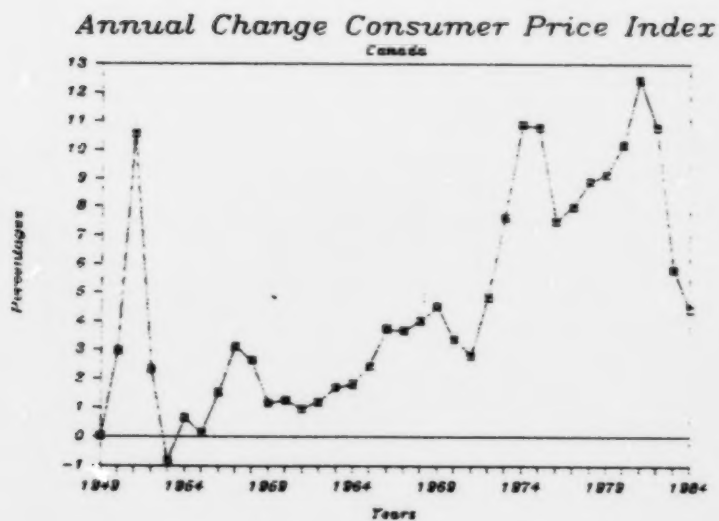


Diagram 30

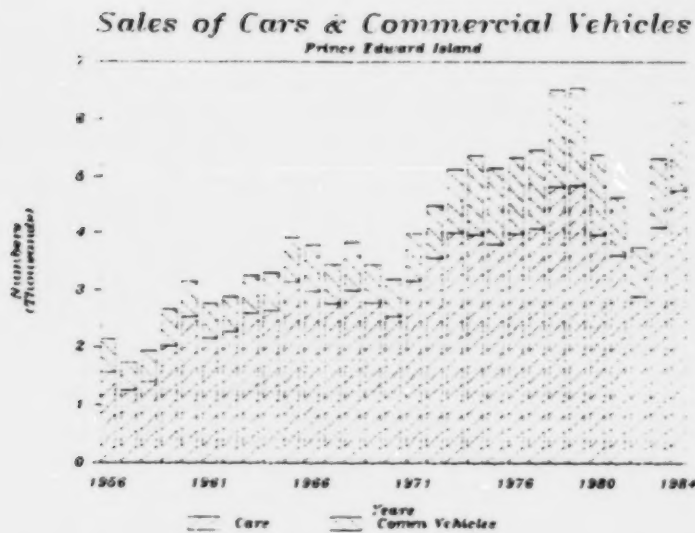
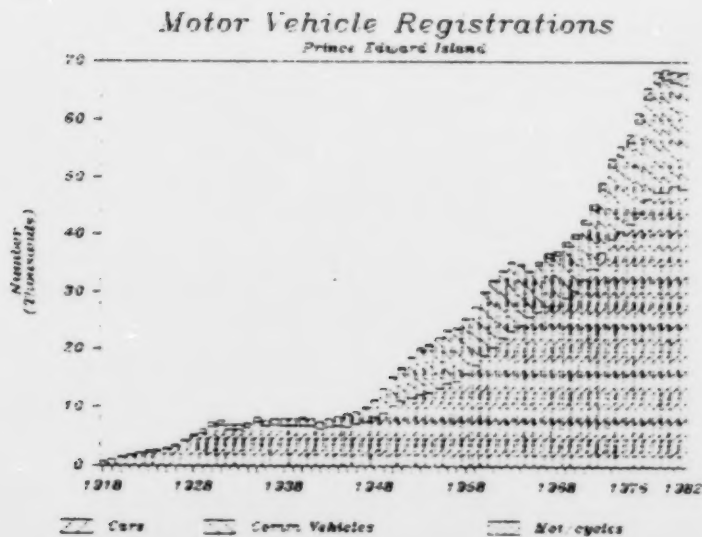


Diagram 31



4. Summary and Conclusions

This issue of trends provides a preview of the new Historical Review, and aims to provide some general insights into the Island's development in itself. In addition to the areas identified above there is information on provincial finance, income tax data, Gross Domestic Product, education, health, Federal elections, provincial elections, and so on. In all cases the Review attempts to present the statistical series back in time as far as the statistics go, although this was not necessarily possible in all cases.

The Review will be available in May 1985 from:-

Island Information Service,
P.O. Box 2000,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 7N8

Phone: (902)892-3428
Telex: 014-44154

The charge is \$5.00.

Further information on the Review itself is available from the Economics, Statistics, and Fiscal Analysis Division, 902-892-4168; John Palmer, Terry Hogan.